

LITHUANIA AGREES TO 100-DAY DELAY ON INDEPENDENCE

DECLARATION SUSPENDED

Parliament's Move Hinges on Talks With Moscow and an End to Sanctions

By **BILL KELLER**

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MOSCOW, June 29 — Lithuania agreed today to suspend its declaration of independence for 100 days in exchange for negotiations with Moscow and the lifting of economic sanctions.

The moratorium, which would begin as soon as any talks got under way, was proposed by the Lithuanian President, Vytautas Landsbergis. The resolution was approved by Parliament by a vote of 69 to 35, with 2 abstentions. [The text of the resolution is on page 5.]

There was no immediate response from Soviet officials. But Lithuanians said they were confident that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev would accept the compromise as sufficient to end the impasse and to resume delivery of oil and other products that were cut off 10 weeks ago.

Sovereignty at Issue

"If the members of Parliament were not sure that was the case, they would not have approved the moratorium," said Rita Dapkus, a spokeswoman for Parliament.

The decision does not resolve the conflict over whose power is sovereign in Lithuania. But it relegates the dispute to a conference table and removes it for now as a source of international embarrassment to Mr. Gorbachev.

Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, defending the moratorium, said it would freeze the declaration of independence, made on March 11, but would not affect any of the laws enacted later that Moscow found particularly offensive.

'A Political Statement'

These included measures freeing Lithuanian men from the Soviet military draft, putting limits on citizenship in the republic and laying claim to federal property.

"It is a political statement," she told Parliament, and will have no practical effect on the republic's ability to govern itself.

Earlier, Mr. Gorbachev rejected Lithuanian offers to do just the opposite — to suspend the laws enacted after independence while leaving the March 11 declaration itself intact.

Lithuanians said Mr. Gorbachev, in meetings with leaders of the Baltic republic, had always seemed more concerned with the broader principle of independence than with specific laws.

The independence moratorium sharply divided the Lithuanian Parliament and drew a small crowd of demonstrators, who denounced the move as a sellout.

The decisive factor was the endorse-



Associated Press

President Vytautas Landsbergis voting in favor of the moratorium.



Protesters outside Parliament in Vilnius on Thursday as the plan to suspend Lithuania's declaration of independence was debated. Signs, from left, read:

"No to the Moratorium — May the Empire Rest in Peace," "We Survive to Be Free — Moratorium No!" and "1940-Aggression — 1990-Moratorium!"

Lithuania Freezes Independence Move

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ment by Mr. Landsbergis, a music professor and founding member of Sajudis, the pro-independence movement, who had refused until this morning to commit himself to a moratorium.

"Two years ago we chose the peaceful route to independence, the route of negotiations," he said today. "Now the condition for negotiations is a moratorium."

Mr. Landsbergis told reporters that he had decided to support the measure because it was temporary and included conditions to protect the republic's sovereignty against legal maneuvers or the use of force.

The moratorium is to end automatically if negotiations are broken off or if "certain circumstances or events" prevent the Lithuanian leaders from fulfilling their functions.

Forcibly Annexed in 1940

Lithuania and its Baltic neighbors, Estonia and Latvia, were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, after two decades of independence. Many Western countries, including the United States, have never formally recognized the incorporation of the republics into the Soviet Union.

Estonia and Latvia, which have considerably larger minorities of ethnic Russians and other people of non-Baltic heritage, have opted for more grad-

ual moves towards independence.

Mr. Landsbergis and Mrs. Prunskiene flew tonight to Tallinn, the Estonian capital, to discuss strategy with leaders of Estonia and Latvia.

While the negotiations are under way, Mr. Gorbachev plans to shape a new "union treaty" intended to stop the breakup of his country. He has said the new federative concept he envisions would allow every republic to decide which powers to retain and which to cede to the center.

In effect, Mr. Gorbachev's plan is to legalize the rapid devolution of powers that is already under way.

Other Republics Join Move

Several republics, including the Russian republic, have moved to put their own laws above federal law.

For Lithuania, Moscow's acceptance of the moratorium would mean an end to an economic blockade that has put an estimated 40,000 people out of work.

The republic has weathered the sanctions with good humor and little evidence of suffering. The laid-off workers are still receiving vacation pay, stores are reasonably well stocked with local farm products, a flourishing black market in gasoline kept key transport in operation and warm summer weather made home heating unnecessary.

But Mrs. Prunskiene warned that the embargo was strangling industry, and that farmers would lose their harvest without gasoline for harvest machin-



The New York Times

In Vilnius, the Prime Minister defended the decision to freeze the declaration of independence.

ery. By winter, she said, the sanctions could cause hardship.

In addition, the Lithuanians have come under gentle pressure from the United States and West European governments to find a compromise to reduce the tension.

Mr. Gorbachev initially insisted that talks could not begin unless the independence declaration was revoked and Lithuania agreed to follow Soviet guidelines for secession. These include a referendum of the republic's people, a waiting or transition period of up to five years and other conditions.

In response to this, the Baltic republics' leaders said they had been annexed illegally and thus were not governed by Soviet laws.

Gorbachev Promise Reported

Mr. Landsbergis said after a late-night meeting in the Kremlin this week that Mr. Gorbachev had promised to lift the blockade as soon as a moratorium was approved by Parliament.

Critics of the moratorium included one faction of the Sajudis independence movement, which backed a majority of Parliament in election campaigns. Mr. Landsbergis and other legislators have withdrawn from formal posts in the group since taking office.

One member of the Lithuanian Parliament warned that Communist hardliners could take control at a nationwide party congress in Moscow next week and refuse to honor Mr. Gorbachev's promise of negotiations.

Eduardas Vilkas, who supported the measure, said Lithuania should not rule out some continued affiliation with the Soviet Union, a question that he argued should be put to a referendum.

"The main problem," he said, "will be whether Lithuania should have some kind of state relationship with the Soviet Union, in the sense of a being an associate member or some kind of member."

The Lithuanian Resolution

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MOSCOW, June 29 — Following is the text of the Lithuanian resolution today freezing the republic's declaration of independence, as translated and distributed by the information bureau of the Lithuanian Parliament:

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, expressing and continuing to express the sovereign powers of the nation and the state, in re-establishing the independent Lithuanian state and seeking full implementation of those powers, and therefore seeking bilateral negotiations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, does declare from the start of such negotiations a 100-day moratorium on the act of March 11, 1990, on the Restoration of the Independent Lithuanian State, that is the suspension of legal actions flowing from this act.

The start and aims of negotia-

tions between the Republic of Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are to be expressed in a special protocol accepted by authorized delegations from both countries.

This moratorium may be extended or terminated by a decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania. The moratorium automatically becomes invalid upon the breaking off of negotiations.

Should certain circumstances or events not allow the First Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania to continue its normal state governing functions, the moratorium will at that moment cease to be valid.